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Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5783rd meeting

Wednesday, 21 November 2007, 10.15 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Natalegawa	(Indonesia)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Ghana	Mr. Yankey
	Italy	Mr. Spatafora
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Marton
	South Africa	Ms. Qwabe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in the Great Lakes region

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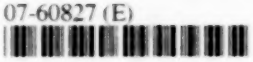

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Great Lakes region

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Booto (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Mr. Nsengimana (Rwanda) took seats at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council commends the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda for their joint communiqué on a common approach to end the threat posed to peace and stability in both countries and the Great Lakes region, signed in Nairobi on 9 November 2007, which is an important milestone towards the definitive settlement of the problem of illegal armed groups in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation for the efforts undertaken in this respect by the Secretary-General through the special mission carried out by Assistant Secretary-General Haile Menkerios and looks forward to a continuation of this involvement, including further consultations with the Governments concerned and regional and international partners.

"The Security Council recalls that the continued presence of illegal armed groups, in particular the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR), ex-FAR/Interahamwe and the dissident militia of Laurent Nkunda, is one of the root causes of conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and constitutes a threat to regional stability. The Council reiterates its demand that these groups lay down their arms and engage voluntarily and without preconditions in their demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, as appropriate.

"The Security Council encourages the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda to implement fully their commitments in the Nairobi communiqué and to continue to cooperate to solve their common security concerns.

"The Security Council stresses its readiness to facilitate and support the implementation of these commitments, in particular through measures against additional individuals and entities, including the FDLR and ex-FAR/Interahamwe, as appropriate, pursuant to resolutions 1596 (2005) and 1649 (2005).

"The Security Council reiterates its full support to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for its action on the ground, and encourages it to support, within its mandate and capabilities, the measures agreed by the Congolese and Rwandan Governments".

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/44.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.